

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1256
By Head

A RESOLUTION to recognize Lawrence E. Baggett of Austin Peay State University on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as educational and civic leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mr. Lawrence E. Baggett of Clarksville, who recently announced his retirement after a very distinguished career with Austin Peay State University that has spanned nearly forty years (1965 to 2004); and

WHEREAS, a native of Montgomery County, Professor Baggett is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School in Clarksville; he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Economics from Austin Peay State University in 1963 and completed his Master of Arts degree in Accounting at the University of Alabama in 1965; and

WHEREAS, since 1965, this impressive gentleman has been employed at his alma mater, Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, where he is currently an Associate Professor of Accounting and formerly served as Chair of the Department of Accounting; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at Austin Peay, Lawrence Baggett has taught dozens of courses at the undergraduate and graduate level, while establishing an admirable legacy of mentoring countless business students and future accountants as they pursued their education before entering the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, a true leader among his peers, Professor Baggett has been selected to serve on numerous key task forces and committees while at Austin Peay State University, ranging from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools self-study committees to faculty

committees, departmental committees and various search committees, in addition to serving in the University Assembly and the Faculty Senate, which he ably served as Vice President in 1991-1992; and

WHEREAS, a thoroughly active member of his profession, he has been a Certified Public Accountant in Tennessee since 1967 and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants, the American Accounting Association, and the Tennessee Society of Accounting Educators; and

WHEREAS, Professor Baggett is also a member of Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity, Beta Alpha Psi honorary accounting fraternity, Omicron Delta Epsilon honorary finance/economics society, Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society, Phi Kappa Phi honor society, and Sigma Beta Delta honor society for business; and

WHEREAS, a past selection to Outstanding Young Men in America, Mr. Baggett has received numerous honors and accolades in recognition of his personal and professional excellence, including the 1982 Big Apple Award for College of Business Faculty, the 1980 National Chapter Advisor of the Year Award for Alpha Tau Omega, and the 1996 University Distinguished Professor Award, in addition to being named to *Who's Who In American Colleges and Universities*; and

WHEREAS, Professor Lawrence Baggett has donated his time and considerable talents to a vast array of student activities at APSU over the years; he currently serves as Chapter Advisor for Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and Faculty Advisor for the Austin Peay Accounting Society; and

WHEREAS, actively involved in his community, Mr. Baggett is a member of several civic and charitable organizations, including the Emerald Hill Society, the APSU Alumni Association, the Clarksville Civitan Club and the APSU Governors Club, in addition to serving as a volunteer with local charity events for the American Heart Association, the United Way, Habitat for Humanity and the March of Dimes; and

WHEREAS, his colleague, Dr. A.J. Taylor, Professor of Marketing at APSU, has said, "More than any other individual at Austin Peay State University, Lawrence Baggett has epitomized what this institution has strived to become in the past 30 plus years. ...He is a true

ambassador to the community...The void that he will create by retiring will be large and not easily filled"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gaines Hunt, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, has said, "Lawrence Baggett is the most devoted person to Austin Peay State University that I have ever known. He has always worked tirelessly for the university", and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baggett epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he is to be commended for his dedication to guiding Tennessee's students to a better understanding of the world and themselves and to improving the quality of life in this state; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Lawrence E. Baggett has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and students alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Lawrence E. Baggett our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors, as we pay tribute to his exemplary career with Austin Peay State University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.